



World Bulletin

Winter 2016

Prepared Exclusively for Special Friends of Salesian Missions
A Written Testimony Of How You Bring God-Saving Grace To A Troubled World

The Salesians and Pope Francis Share a Vision for Peace

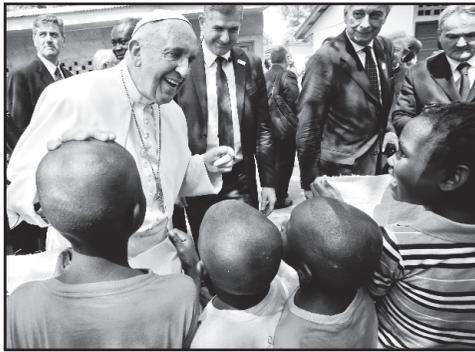
For far too long, life in the Central African Republic has seemed a nightmare from which it is impossible to awake.

Pervasive poverty, a lack of educational opportunity, and ongoing religious tension borne of misunderstanding and fear have bred an unbreakable cycle of war, violence and hopelessness. In the last two years alone, close to one million innocent men, women and children have fled their homes for other countries, or to internal refugee camps.

Thousands more have perished. And precious little girls and boys have been kidnapped and forced into combat – witnessing horrors no child should ever experience.

It is easy for the rest of the world to become discouraged; to avert our eyes; to conclude C.A.R.'s problems are not ours to solve.

But a recent visit by Pope Francis highlighted a path forward – a path toward reconciliation and lasting peace – that Salesian missionaries are



committed to travel.

“We must say ‘no’ to hatred, ‘no’ to revenge, ‘no’ to violence and, in particular, ‘no’ to violence perpetrated in the name of religion or God,” said Pope Francis, upon opening the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in Bangui.

Since first arriving in Bangui in 1995, Salesian missionaries have worked to effect positive change. In particular, two programs seek to bring together youth of all ages, cultures and religions so they may learn to live and work together. Called “Spaces of Peace,” and located in the Salesian houses at Damal and Galabadja, the programs offer sports, musical activities, summer camps, games and

cultural events that foster friendship, teamwork and respect.

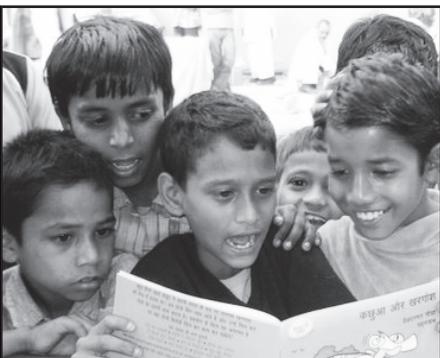
Recently, the Salesian missionaries helped bring hundreds of children suffering the ill effects of war into these “Spaces of Peace.” Since September, close to 300 girls and boys – many of whom identify themselves as former soldiers – have joined the program.

The goal is three-fold: to help children overcome their traumas; to offer literacy training; and to help them learn a trade that will prepare them for long-term employment. Additionally, they take classes on peace, forgiveness, respect for life, and love of their country.

While perhaps a small harbinger of change, this is nonetheless a significant indication that youth are ready to heed the call of Pope Francis.

To learn more about Pope Francis’ connection to the Salesians and receive a FREE Pope Francis commemorative prayer card, go online to www.salesianmissions.org/pope.

This Month’s Children



Name: Arvind
Age: 9 Years Old
Home: Chennai, India

He doesn’t remember much about his early life.

He knows he was born in Trichy, in the state of Tamil Nadu. He knows his parents died – though not why – and he understands he was sent to live with an aunt who was supposed to love and care for him. Instead, she beat him so severely that he ran away.

Alone, little Arvind hopped a train for the city. Instead of a fresh start, however, he fell victim to the streets – invisible to the adults

around him as he struggled to feed himself and stay safe. Without intervention, his future looked grim.

Fortunately one day, while roaming around Chennai, Arvind encountered Don Bosco *Anbu Illam* – literally translated, “Home of Love.” Now under the care of our Salesian missionaries, Arvind is learning to be a kid again – in a welcoming environment where he enjoys safe shelter, schooling, nutritious meals, warm clothes ... and new hope!

This Month’s Call For Prayer

Please pray for all the children and families who have been forced to flee their homes because of war, violence and natural disaster. May these innocent victims find safe refuge and gain the strength and hope to rebuild their shattered lives.

Join Us in Prayer... Submit Your Own Intentions...

Go on-line to: www.salesianmissions.org/pray



Monthly Missions Report...

In Angola...

In a town called Lixeira – which in Portuguese means “trash” – the Don Bosco Band has helped some of Angola’s most disadvantaged youth discover new confidence and a passion for life.

Founded in 2008 by Brother Andrés Randisi, the band comprises more than 80 students. In addition to taking lessons on one of 95 different instruments, they learn important skills such as teamwork, collaboration and discipline in a structured environment.

“Playing a musical instrument changes a child, both inside and out,” says Bro. Randisi. “Their self-confidence grows, their personality matures and they all have big smiles.”

His pupils agree. “If Bro. Randisi had not introduced me to the trumpet, my life today would be totally different,” says one boy, who – until he joined the band – spent all of his free time loitering on the streets.



In India...



Recently, in partnership with the CARE Institute of Behavioral Sciences, Salesian missionaries at Don Bosco Egmore in Chennai launched a new project called “Don Bosco Remedial Education Services.”

The project provides much-needed support for educators who struggle to effectively teach children with learning disabilities in their classrooms. Because the benefits of special education have only recently been recognized in India, a majority of teachers lack the knowledge and skills to adequately support learning-disabled students and ensure their success.

Coursework will raise teachers’ awareness of learning disabilities, as well as equip them to screen students and offer remedial education when warranted.

Starting in January 2016, the program will be broadly available to teachers throughout Chennai, thus having a major impact on at-risk children struggling in school.

In Italy...

Since 2009, a special initiative called the Sacro Cuore Missionary Project has been serving the needs of immigrants and asylum-seekers from all over the world.

Based in Rome next to the central Termini train station, the project offers a broad range of services for more than 170 youth, mostly young men, seeking new



opportunities and a better life.

“Our goal is to create a ‘home that welcomes,’ where they can feel comfortable regardless of their religion, ethnicity or origin, and where they can meet young Italians to whom they can relate,” says Father Emanuele De Maria, project director. “In this way, they begin building a social network that helps prevent marginalization.”

Participants can take Italian language courses, driving lessons and computer classes, as well as receive resume and interview coaching. Ultimately, these activities help ensure successful integration into Italian society.

Missionary of the Month: Bro. Saraphan Kaeser, SDB

It was a pamphlet about Don Bosco’s life that first inspired young Saraphan’s vocational journey.

“It was called *Father and Teacher of the Young*,” he recalls. “It was from Don Bosco Technical School in Bangkok, where an uncle of mine had attended. When I asked him about it, he encouraged me to enroll.”

Saraphan already knew he wanted to study auto mechanics.

But he was also interested in entering the seminary. The son of deeply religious parents, he felt called to help fulfill the shortage of Catholic clergy in his country.

“Once at school, I learned the story of Saint John Bosco and I liked it very much,” he says. “From that time, I knew I wanted to be a Salesian and work on behalf of the young.”

Now the youngest of 13 Salesian brothers in Thailand,



Bro. Kaeser is studying Catechetics in Manila before he returns to Don Bosco to teach.

Saying “Yes” to Peace

Dear Friend and Partner in Mission!

Peace. It’s such a simple word; an easy concept. But far too often, it is much more complicated to achieve – especially in areas of the world where profound poverty crushes hope under its cruel heel. And, as we have witnessed, violence regularly breeds in the fertile ground of such despair.

But we Salesian missionaries have faith – and remain committed

to meaningful action for, and with, marginalized youth around the world. Why? Because when we empower youth, youth become agents of change ... applying their knowledge and skills to break the cycles of ignorance, fear and violence in their own lives, and in society as a whole.

In this, the year of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we join with Pope Francis in helping youth say “no” to hatred, revenge and



violence – and instead say “yes” to peace.

Thank you for your constant prayers and kind support, which makes this work possible.

May God bless you!

Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB

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